WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Terrorist activities from Bhutan

*222. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the militants are carrying on terrorist activities on a large scale from Bhutan alongwith the Assam-Bhutan border;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

(c) whether the Central Government have received any request from the State Government of Assam to flush out National Democratic Font for Bodoland (N.D.F.B.) militants; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto and steps contemplated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):(a) to (d) The Government is aware about the existence of camps of Indian insurgent groups including National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) in Bhutan territory, which are being used by them for safe havens, sanctuary, training purposes and launching of operations against Indian civilians and security forces. The Government of Assam have also drawn the attention of the Central Government in this regard.

The matter regarding removal of camps of Indian insurgent groups from Bhutan territory has been taken up from time to time with the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB). The issue was also discussed in detail during the visits of External Affairs Minister of Bhutan from August 4 to 6, 2002 and Foreign Secretary from October 28 to 30, 2002, with the Bhutanese leadership. The RGOB have assured that they will not allow these elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.